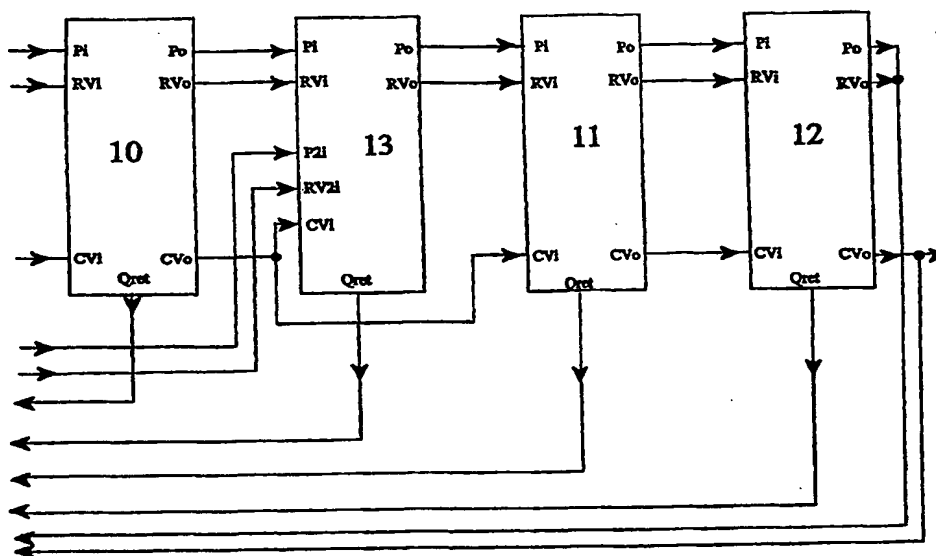




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : H04L 12/56, H04Q 11/04		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/43131
			(43) International Publication Date: 26 August 1999 (26.08.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/00405 (22) International Filing Date: 9 February 1999 (09.02.99) (30) Priority Data: 9803301.2 18 February 1998 (18.02.98) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): POWER X LIMITED [GB/GB]; Stafford Court, 145 Washway Road, Sale, Manchester M33 7PE (GB). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): HOWARTH, Paul, Graham [GB/GB]; 14 Badby Close, Ancoats, Manchester M4 7EY (GB). JOHNSON, Ian, David [GB/GB]; 11 Seel Street, Moseley, Manchester OL5 0EW (GB). (74) Agents: McNEIGHT, David, Leslie et al.; McNeight & Lawrence, Regent House, Heaton Lane, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 1BS (GB).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.	

(54) Title: SCHEDULING MEANS FOR DATA SWITCHING APPARATUS



(57) Abstract

Scheduling means is provided for data switching apparatus having a plurality of input ports and a plurality of output ports between which data having one of a predetermined number of priority levels is to be passed. The scheduling means includes a first pipeline stage (10) to which are applied requests for said interconnections from the input ports and operable to satisfy at least some of the requested interconnections. A priority mixer (13) is provided to which are applied those requests for interconnections which were not satisfied by the first pipeline stage together with requests of a different priority level. The priority mixer (13) operates to select which of those requests should be further considered and applied to a second pipeline stage (11). This is operable to satisfy such of those requests as are possible. Further pipeline stages (12) are provided, to which are applied those requests not satisfied by any preceding pipeline stages.